

When the ER sample and the Tennessee population were analyzed by race, age and sex, young whites and blacks both emerged as being over-represented in the ER sample (Table 2). Most over-represented among the ER patients were white males, aged 18-24 years; white females, aged 25-34; black males, aged 25-44 and 55-64; and black females, aged 18-44. Overall, blacks were over-represented and whites were under-represented among the ER patients. Although only comprising 14% of Tennesseans aged 18 years and older, blacks constituted almost one-quarter of the ER sample.

In addition to sex and age, the ER patients differed substantially from the general adult Tennessee population in terms of marital status, educational attainment, employment status, and household income (Table 3). They were less likely to be married than the average Tennessean (47% versus 57%), and more likely to be separated or divorced (22% versus 11%). The ER patients also reported less formal education than members of the general adult population. Eighty-seven percent had not obtained any post-high school education (compared with 63% of adult Tennesseans). Six percent of the patients and 10% of adult Tennesseans had graduated from college. The patients also were less likely to be in the labor market (59% versus 71%). Unadjusted for inflation, their median income of \$16,237 was 43% below that reported by Tennesseans (\$28,639) in the 1990 United States' Census.

## **PARTICIPATION AND TEST REFUSAL RATES**

The sample size for the ER study was 1,612. Eighty percent of eligible subjects consented to participate in the study. The interview completion rate was 75%. Saliva specimens were collected upon completion of the interview. Thus, 5% of study participants did not provide a saliva specimen because their interview was partial. Of those participants requested to provide saliva specimens, 9% refused and 81% provided adequate specimens for testing. Reasons that testable specimens could not be obtained from the remaining study participants (5%) included presence of a medical condition, dry mouth, mouth obstruction, insufficient specimen, or because the subjects' hospital visit had exceeded the cut-off point of six hours.

As for saliva, the same 5% of study participants were not asked for urine specimens because their interviews were partial. Of those who were asked, 68% provided testable urine specimens, 20% refused, and 10% were unable to comply due to a medical condition (for example, they were connected to monitors) or some unknown reason. Finally, another 1% of participants had consented to let the hospital share its sample, but the hospital would not comply, had disposed of the sample prior to survey, or had sealed it for workplace analysis. The higher refusal rate for urine, as compared to saliva, was expected since subjects were likely to perceive the saliva request as less intrusive and time-consuming. Seven percent of patients in the sample refused to give either a saliva or a urine specimen.